UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-44* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☒ All   b)☐ Some *   c)☐ None of:

      1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _2_.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2.   Claims 1-5, 7-9, 12-17, 19-20, 24-26, 30, 32-37, 39-40, and 44 are rejected

under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Baba et al. (US. 6437881).

Regarding claim 1, Baba et al. discloses a method of processing an image (fig. 1,

col. 1, lines57-62) comprising the steps of:

Receiving data which has been transmitted from an apparatus which is connected

through a network (fig. 1, col. 3, lines 47-50);

Judging the format of the data which has been received (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 26-32);

Executed the unexecuted processing(s) for data in accordance with the data

format thus judged (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 33-37); and

Outputting the data for which said processing has been executed (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 60-65).

Regarding claim 2, Baba et al. discloses an image processing method according to claim 1, wherein the data format to be judged is the data format which is instructed to said apparatus which is connected through said network (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 26-32).

Regarding claim 3, Baba et al. discloses an image processing method according to claim 1, wherein the data to be received is the data which is produced by analyzing the image (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 5-10).

Regarding claim 4, Baba et al. discloses an image processing method according to claim 1, wherein the received data is the data for which the processing up to a predetermined stage of the processings of a plurality of stages have been executed for the received data in said processing step (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 15-65).

Regarding claim 5, Baba et al. discloses an image processing method according to claim 1, wherein the character recognizing processing is executed for the received data in said processing step (fig. 2, col. 5, lines 7-19).

Regarding claim 7, Baba et al. discloses a method of processing an image (fig. 1, col. 1, lines57-62) comprising the steps of:

Receiving an instruction having a data format which has been issued from an

apparatus which is connected through a network (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 26-32);

Executing, for the image data, the processings up to a predetermined stage of the

processings of a plurality of stages in accordance with the data format (fig. 1, col. 4,

lines 5-37); and

Transmitting the data which has been processed in said processing step to said

apparatus (fig. 1, col. 5, lines 1-6).

Regarding claim 8, Baba et al. disclose an image processing method according to

claim 7, wherein an instruction to read out the data is received together with the

instruction of the data format in said instruction receiving step (fig. 3, col. 6, lines 1-9);

and

Said method further comprises the reading step of starting the processing of

reading out the image data in accordance with the instruction to read out the data (fig.

3-4, col. 6, lines 7-14).

Regarding claim 9, Baba et al. discloses an image processing method according to

claim 7, wherein the processing of a plurality of stages include the data division of the

image data and the character recognition (fig. 2, col. 5, lines 7-37).

Regarding claim 12, Baba et al. discloses an image processing method according to claim 7, wherein the image data is the image data which has been read out through a scanner (fig.1, col. 3, lines 63-67).

Regarding claim 13, Baba et al. discloses an image processing apparatus (fig. 1, col. 3, lines 38-40) comprising the steps of:

Reception means for receiving data which has been transmitted from an apparatus which is connected through a network (fig. 1, col. 3, lines 47-50);

Judgment means for judging the format of the data which has been received (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 26-32);

Processing means for executing the unexecuted processing(s) for data in accordance with the data format thus judged (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 33-37); and

Output means for outputting the data for which said processing has been executed (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 60-65).

Regarding claim 14, Baba et al. discloses an image processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the data format to be judged is the data format which is instructed to said apparatus which is connected through said network (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 26-32).

Regarding claim 15, Baba et al. discloses an image processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the data to be received is the data which is produced by analyzing the image (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 5-10).

Regarding claim 16, Baba et al. discloses an image processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the received data is the data for which the processings up to a predetermined stage of the processings of a plurality of stages have been executed, and said processing means executes the subsequent processings for the received data (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 15-65).

Regarding claim 17, Baba et al. discloses an image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the character recognizing processing is executed for the received data (fig. 2, col. 5, lines 7-19).

Regarding claim 19, Baba et al. discloses an image processing apparatus (fig. 1, col. 1, lines 57-62) comprising the steps of:

Instruction receiving means for receiving an instruction having a data format which has been issued from an apparatus which is connected through a network (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 26-32);

Processing means for executing, for the image data, the processings up to a

predetermined stage of the processings of a plurality of stages in accordance with the

data format (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 5-37); and

Transmission means for transmitting the data which has been processed in said

processing step to said apparatus (fig. 1, col. 5, lines 1-6).

Regarding claim 20, Baba et al. disclose an image processing apparatus according

to claim 19, wherein said instruction receiving means receives, together with the

instruction for the data format, an instruction to read out data; and

Said image processing apparatus further comprises reading means for starting to

read out the image data in accordance with the instruction to read out the data..

Regarding claim 24, Baba et al. discloses an image processing system according to

claim 19, wherein the image data is the image data which has been read out through a

scanner (fig.1, col. 3, lines 63-67).

Regarding claim 25, Baba et al. an image processing system to which a first image

processing apparatus and a second image processing apparatus are connected through

a network (fig. 23, col. 20, lines 15-28),

Wherein said second image processing apparatus executes, for image data, the

processings up to a predetermined step of the processings of a plurality of stages in

accordance with a predetermined data format to transmit the data for which the

processings up to the predetermined stage have been executed to said first image

processing apparatus (fig. 23, col. 20, lines 39-52);

Said first image processing apparatus which ahs received the data for which the

processings up to the predetermined step have been executed judges the data format

of the received data to execute the unexecuted processing (s) for the received data to

output the data for which the unexecuted processing (s) has (have) been executed (fig.

23, col. 20, lines 31-38).

Regarding claim 26, Baba et al. discloses an image processing system according

to claim 25, wherein the predetermined data format is the data format which is

instructed from said first image processing apparatus to said second image processing

apparatus (fig. 23, col. 20, lines 29-38).

Regarding claim 30, Baba et al. discloses an image processing system according to

claim 25, wherein said second image processing apparatus starts the processing of

reading out the image data in accordance with an instruction to read out the data which

has been issued from said first image processing apparatus (fig. 23, col. 20, lines 45-

52).

Regarding claim 32, Baba et al. discloses an image processing system according

to claim 25, wherein the image data is the image data which has been read out through

a scanner (fig.1, col. 3, lines 63-67).

Regarding claim 33, Baba et al. discloses a storage medium for storing therein an image processing control program which can be read out by a computer (fig. 24, col. 20, lines 56-58), said image processing control program comprising the steps of:

Receiving data which has been transmitted from an apparatus which is connected through a network (fig. 1, col. 3, lines 47-50);

Judging the format of the data which has been received (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 26-32);

Executed the unexecuted processing(s) for data in accordance with the data format thus judged (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 33-37); and

Outputting the data for which said processing has been executed (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 60-65).

Regarding claim 34, Baba et al. discloses a storage medium according to claim 33, wherein the data format to be judged is the data format which is instructed to said apparatus which is connected through said network (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 26-32).

Regarding claim 35, Baba et al. discloses a storage medium according to claim 33, wherein the data to be received is the data which is produced by analyzing the image (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 5-10).

Regarding claim 36, Baba et al. discloses a storage medium according to claim 33, wherein the received data is the data for which the processing up to a predetermined stage of the processings in a plurality of stages have been executed, and also the

subsequent are executed for the received data in said processing step (fig. 1, col. 4,

lines 15-65).

Regarding claim 37, Baba et al. discloses an image processing method according

to claim 33, wherein the character recognizing processing is executed for the received

data in said processing step (fig. 2, col. 5, lines 7-19).

Regarding claim 39, Baba et al. discloses a storage medium for storing therein an

image processing control program which can be read out by a computer (fig. 24, col. 20,

lines 56-58), said image processing control program comprising the steps of:

Receiving an instruction having a data format which has been issued from an

apparatus which is connected through a network (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 26-32);

Executing, for the image data, the processings up to a predetermined stage of the

processings of a plurality of stages in accordance with the data format (fig. 1, col. 4,

lines 5-37); and

Transmitting the data which has been processed in said processing step to said

apparatus (fig. 1, col. 5, lines 1-6).

Regarding claim 40, Baba et al. disclose a storage medium according to claim 39,

wherein said instruction receiving step, an instruction to read out data is received

together with instruction for data format (fig. 3, col. 6, lines 1-9), and;

Said image processing control program further comprises the step of starting to

read out the image data in accordance with the instruction to read out the data (fig. 3-4,

col. 6, lines 7-14).

Regarding claim 44, Baba et al. discloses a storage medium according to claim

39, wherein the image data is the image data which has been read out from a scanner

(fig.1, col. 3, lines 63-67).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4.   Claims 6, 10-11, 18, 21-23, 27-29, 31, 38, 41-43 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baba et al. (US. 6437881) in view of Kaneda

et al. (US. 6327382).

Regarding claim 6, Baba discloses an image processing method according to

claim 1.

Baba et al. do not disclose comprising the area division correcting step of, for the data for which it is judged in the judgment step that the format of the received data is the data format which has been subjected to the area division processing, when the correction of the area division processing, when the correction of the area division is instructed by a user, carrying out the correction of the area division.

Kaneda et al. discloses comprising the area division correcting step of, for the data for which it is judged in the judgment step that the format of the received data is the data format which has been subjected to the area division processing, when the correction of the area division processing, when the correction of the area division is instructed by a user, carrying out the correction of the area division (figs. 1 & 9, col. 2, lines 40-67 and col. 3,lines 1-15).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify Baba et al. wherein the image separating process included an area division step whereas each image undergoes a plurality of correction and enhancement steps, for example each area is blocked and would undergo resolution conversion and color correction. This implementation corrects/enhance every specific area identified in the judgment step for a quality and accurate output image.

Regarding claim 10, Baba et al. discloses an image processing method according to claim 7.

Baba et al. do not disclose wherein the processing of dividing the area of the

image data is executed in said processing step

Kaneda et al. discloses wherein the processing of dividing the area of the image

data is executed in said processing step (fig. 1, col. 2, lines 49-63).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to

modify Baba et al. wherein the image separating process included a process of dividing

the area whereas each image undergoes a plurality of correction and enhancement

steps, for example each area would undergo resolution conversion and color correction.

This implementation corrects/enhance every specific area identified in the judgment

step for a quality and accurate output image.

Regarding claim 11, Baba et al. discloses an image processing method according

to claim 7.

Baba et al. do not disclose wherein the binarization processing is executed for the

text area of the image data in said processing step.

Kaneda et al. disclose wherein the binarization processing is executed for the

text area of the image data in said processing step (fig. 2, col. 3, lines 11-15).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to

modify Baba et al. wherein an additional process step of binarization is included in the

processing of the image data transmitted. This step will permit adjustments to the text

whether is declared black/white or color. This feature would assist in producing a quality

output image in complicated layouts.

Regarding claim 18, Baba discloses an image processing apparatus according to claim 13.

Baba et al. do not disclose comprising the area division correcting step of, for the data for which it is judged in the judgment step that the format of the received data is the data format which has been subjected to the area division processing, when the correction of the area division processing, when the correction of the area division is instructed by a user, carrying out the correction of the area division.

Kaneda et al. discloses comprising the area division correcting step of, for the data for which it is judged in the judgment step that the format of the received data is the data format which has been subjected to the area division processing, when the correction of the area division processing, when the correction of the area division is instructed by a user, carrying out the correction of the area division (figs. 1 & 9, col. 2, lines 40-67 and col. 3, lines 1-15).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify Baba et al. wherein the image separating process included an area division step whereas each image undergoes a plurality of correction and enhancement steps, for example each area is blocked and would undergo resolution conversion and color correction. This implementation corrects/enhance every specific area identified in the judgment step for a quality and accurate output image.

Regarding claim 21, Baba et al. discloses an image processing method according to claim 19.

Baba et al. do not disclose wherein the processings of said plurality of stages include the area division of the image data and the character recognition.

Kaneda et al. disclose wherein the processings of said plurality of stages include the area division of the image data and the character recognition (fig. 1, col. 2, lines 49-57).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify Baba et al. wherein the image separating process included an area division step whereas each image undergoes a plurality of correction and enhancement steps, for example each area is blocked and would undergo resolution conversion and color correction. This implementation corrects/enhance every specific area identified in the judgment step for a quality and accurate output image.

Regarding claim 22, Baba et al. discloses an image processing apparatus according to claim 19.

Baba et al. do not disclose wherein said processing means executes the processing of dividing the area of the image data.

Kaneda et al. disclose wherein said processing means executes the processing of dividing the area of the image data (fig. 1, col. 2, lines 53-67; col. 3, lines 1-15).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify Baba et al. wherein the image separating process included a process of dividing

the area whereas each image undergoes a plurality of correction and enhancement

steps, for example each area would undergo resolution conversion and color correction.

This implementation corrects/enhance every specific area identified in the judgment

step for a quality and accurate output image.

Regarding claim 23, Baba et al. discloses an image processing apparatus

according to claim 19.

Baba et al. do not disclose wherein the binarization processing is executed for the

text area of the image data in said processing step.

Kaneda et al. disclose wherein the binarization processing is executed for the

text area of the image data in said processing step (fig. 2, col. 3, lines 9-15; col. 4, lines

21-28).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to

modify Baba et al. wherein an additional process step of binarization is included in the

processing of the image data transmitted. This step will permit adjustments to the text

whether is declared black/white or color. This feature would assist in producing a quality

output image in complicated layouts.

Regarding claim 27, Baba et al. discloses an image processing method according

to claim 25.

Baba et al. do not disclose wherein the processings of said plurality of stages

include the area division of the image data and the character recognition.

Kaneda et al. disclose wherein the processings of said plurality of stages include the area division of the image data and the character recognition (fig. 1, col. 2, lines 49-57).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify Baba et al. wherein the image separating process included an area division step whereas each image undergoes a plurality of correction and enhancement steps, for example each area is blocked and would undergo resolution conversion and color correction. This implementation corrects/enhance every specific area identified in the judgment step for a quality and accurate output image.

Regarding claim 28, Baba et al. discloses an image processing system according to claim 25.

Baba et al. do not disclose wherein the processings up to a predetermined stage which are executed in said second image processing apparatus include the area division.

Kaneda et al. disclose wherein the processings up to a predetermined stage which are executed in said second image processing apparatus include the area division (fig. 1, col. 2, lines 50-63)

Baba et al. disclose the unexecuted processing (s) which is (are) executed in said first image processing apparatus include (s) the character recognition (fig. 1, col. 2, lines 45-53).

It would have obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify Baba et al. wherein Kaneda et al. can be considered as the second image processing apparatus performing area division. This feature takes an original image and divides the image into blocks wherein each blocked area has a plurality of processing steps performed to produce a quality image, specifically for complicated layouts.

Regarding claim 29, Baba discloses an image processing system according to claim 25.

Baba et al. do not disclose comprising the area division correcting step of, for the data for which it is judged in the judgment step that the format of the received data is the data format which has been subjected to the area division processing, when the correction of the area division processing, when the correction of the area division is instructed by a user, carrying out the correction of the area division.

Kaneda et al. discloses comprising the area division correcting step of, for the data for which it is judged in the judgment step that the format of the received data is the data format which has been subjected to the area division processing, when the correction of the area division processing, when the correction of the area division is instructed by a user, carrying out the correction of the area division (figs. 1 & 9, col. 2, lines 40-67 and col. 3,lines 1-15).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify Baba et al. wherein the image separating process included an area division step whereas each image undergoes a plurality of correction and enhancement steps, for

example each area is blocked and would undergo resolution conversion and color

correction. This implementation corrects/enhance every specific area identified in the

judgment step for a quality and accurate output image.

Regarding claim 31, Baba et al. discloses an image processing system according

to claim 25.

Baba et al. do not disclose wherein said second image processing apparatus

executes the binarization processing of the text area of the image data in accordance

with the predetermined data format.

Kaneda et al. disclose wherein the binarization processing is executed for the

text area of the image data in accordance with the predetermined data format (fig. 2,

col. 3, lines 9-15; col. 4, lines 21-28).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to

modify Baba et al. wherein an additional process step of binarization is included in the

processing of the image data transmitted. This step will permit adjustments to the text

whether is declared black/white or color. This feature would assist in producing a quality

output image in complicated layouts.

Regarding claim 38, Baba discloses a storage medium according to claim 33.

Baba et al. do not disclose comprising the area division correcting step of, for the

data for which it is judged in the judgment step that the format of the received data is

the data format which has been subjected to the area division processing, when the

correction of the area division processing, when the correction of the area division is instructed by a user, carrying out the correction of the area division.

Kaneda et al. discloses comprising the area division correcting step of, for the data for which it is judged in the judgment step that the format of the received data is the data format which has been subjected to the area division processing, when the correction of the area division processing, when the correction of the area division is instructed by a user, carrying out the correction of the area division (figs. 1 & 9, col. 2, lines 40-67 and col. 3,lines 1-15).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify Baba et al. wherein the image separating process included an area division step whereas each image undergoes a plurality of correction and enhancement steps, for example each area is blocked and would undergo resolution conversion and color correction. This implementation corrects/enhance every specific area identified in the judgment step for a quality and accurate output image.

Regarding claim 41, Baba et al. discloses a storage medium according to claim 39.

Baba et al. do not disclose wherein the processings of said plurality of stages include the area division of the image data and the character recognition.

Kaneda et al. disclose wherein the processings of said plurality of stages include the area division of the image data and the character recognition (fig. 1, col. 2, lines 49-57).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify Baba et al. wherein the image separating process included an area division step whereas each image undergoes a plurality of correction and enhancement steps, for example each area is blocked and would undergo resolution conversion and color correction. This implementation corrects/enhance every specific area identified in the judgment step for a quality and accurate output image.

Regarding claim 42, Baba et al. discloses a storage medium according to claim 39.

Baba et al. do not disclose wherein the processing of dividing the area of the image data is executed in said processing step.

Kaneda et al. disclose wherein the processing of dividing the area of the image data is executed in said processing step(fig. 1, col. 2, lines 53-67; col. 3, lines 1-15).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify Baba et al. wherein the image separating process included a process of dividing the area whereas each image undergoes a plurality of correction and enhancement steps, for example each area would undergo resolution conversion and color correction. This implementation corrects/enhance every specific area identified in the judgment step for a quality and accurate output image.

Regarding claim 43, Baba et al. discloses a storage medium according to claim 39.

Baba et al. do not disclose wherein the binarization processing for the text area of

the image data is executed in said processing step.

Kaneda et al. disclose wherein the binarization processing for the text area of the

image data is executed in said processing step (fig. 2, col. 3, lines 11-15).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to

modify Baba et al. wherein an additional process step of binarization is included in the

processing of the image data transmitted. This step will permit adjustments to the text

whether is declared black/white or color. This feature would assist in producing a quality

output image in complicated layouts.

Conclusion

5.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to

applicant's disclosure. Sakai et al. (US. 5949555), Ueno et al. (US. 6483609), Taguchi

(US. 5719969), Koga et al. (Us. 6556711), Ariki et al. (Us. 5113492), Tanioka (US.

6661921), and Honma (US. 6304313) are cited to show related art with respect data

processing.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Tia A Carter whose telephone number is 703 - 306-

5433. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:00-3:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Kimberly A Williams can be reached on 703-305-4863. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-

872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Tia A Carter
Examiner
Art Unit 2626

TAC
March 19, 2004

KIMBERLY WILLIAMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER